Policy: The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) is assured adequate supporting services, equipment and facilities to perform autopsy examinations pursuant to DC Code § 5-1403 and 1409.

Purpose: The OCME provides all support or consultative services that may be necessary for the medical examiner to fulfill their responsibility of determining cause and manner of death.

Scope: The following procedures are to assist Medical Examiner physicians.

Definitions and Abbreviations:

DFS - District of Columbia Department of Forensic Science agency which receives evidence and performs forensic testing at the request of OCME Attending Medical Examiner or law enforcement representative.

OCME - District of Columbia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

1. Forensic Sciences/Criminalistics
   1.1. The OCME does not have the capability to perform in-house testing of forensic evidence, including trace evidence analysis and ballistics.

   1.2. Most cases in which these services are required are under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Police Department or the Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS).

   1.3. The pathologist will coordinate the collection of forensic evidence in these cases with the detective(s)/DFS.

   1.4. If the pathologist feels that he/she needs to examine pieces of evidence (e.g. clothing), the pathologist may contact the detective or DFS and arrange for the examination.

2. Contact Information
   2.1. Crime Scene Sciences Division
       2.1.1. Department of Forensic Sciences
               401 E Street SW
               Washington, DC 20024
               202-727-8267